Calendar No. 1530

82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1600

PROVIDING FOR NATIONAL CEMETERIES IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

MAY 27 (legislative day, MAY 12), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MCFARLAND, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2621]

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2621) to provide for national cemeteries in the State of Arizona, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Army to establish one or more national cemeteries at a location selected by him in the State of Arizona and to acquire such land as may be required for the establishment of such national cemeteries.

The Department of the Army advises there is no national cemetery in the State of Arizona and there are no existing national cemeteries in States adjacent to Arizona which can be utilized to service the approximately 72,000 veteran population of the State. The nearest existing national cemeteries are from 400 to 600 miles distant from Phoenix (the most densely veteran populated area of the State). The veteran population is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a national cemetery in the State.

Further detailed information is carried in the favorable report of the Department of the Army, which report is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

As indicated in this report, the Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the submission of the favorable report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington 25, D. C., May 15, 1952.

Hon. JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR O'MAHONEY: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of the Army for the views of the Department of the Army with respect to S. 2621, Eighty-second Congress, a bill to provide for national cemeteries in the State of Arizona. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense has considered the above-mentioned bill.

The purpose of S. 2621 is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Army to establish one or more national cemeteries at a location selected by him in the State of Arizona and to acquire such land in the State of Arizona as may be required for the establishment of such national cemeteries:

(1) By donation, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise;

(2) By utilization of such Government-owned lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army which are no longer needed for military purposes;

(3) By transfer of any Government-owned lands suitable for the purposes of the legislation which are otherwise surplus to Government needs; upon request of the Secretary of the Army, the Administrator of the General Services is authorized and directed to transfer such lands to the Department of the Army without reimbursement or transfer of funds.

There is no national cemetery in the State of Arizona and there are no existing national cemeteries in the States adjacent to Arizona which can be conveniently utilized to service the approximately 72,000 veteran population of the State. The nearest existing national cemeteries to the Phoenix area (the most densely veteran populated area of the State) are Fort Bliss, Tex.; Santa Fe, N. Mex.; Fort Rosecrans, Calif.; and Fort Logan, Colo.; which are approximately 400, 500, 500, and 600 miles, respectively, from Phoenix. The veteran population is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a national cemetery in the State.

If S. 2621 is enacted into law, authority will be granted to the Secretary of the Army to utilize Government-owned lands in the State of Arizona which are not required for military use if such lands exist, thus potentially eliminating expenditures involved in acquiring lands for the purposes of the act.

In view of the foregoing, the Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense favors enactment into law of S. 2621 if the Congress deems enactment of such legislation to be in the public interest.

The initial cost of establishing one national cemetery in the State of Arizona and the development of facilities to meet anticipated requirements for an initial 5-year period will be approximately $259,000 (excludes cost of acquiring land). The total ultimate cost to complete development of the cemetery will be approximately $836,000 (excludes cost of acquiring land).

This report has been coordinated among the departments and boards in the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK PACE, Jr.,
Secretary of the Army.

There is also attached hereto, and made a part of this report, House Memorial No. 5 of the Arizona State Legislature, requesting favorable action of S. 2621.

STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
State of Arizona, ss:

I, Wesley Bolin, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that the attached document is a true, correct, and complete copy of House Memorial No. 5, second regular session, twentieth legislature; that I am the official of the State of Arizona having custody and control of the original of said copy and the legal keeper thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the State of Arizona. Done at Phoenix, the capital, this 7th day of April A. D. 1952.

[SEAL]

WESLEY BOLIN,
Secretary of State.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 5

A MEMORIAL RELATING TO NATIONAL CEMETERIES, AND REQUESTING FAVORABLE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 2621

To the Congress of the United States of America:

Your memorialist respectfully represents: Senate bill 2621, introduced in the United States Senate by Hon. Ernest W. McFarland, Senator from Arizona, provides for the establishment of one or more national cemeteries in the State of Arizona.

Because of climatic conditions highly beneficial to persons afflicted with certain serious and often fatal ailments, Arizona has attracted to its borders many thousands of war veterans.

Due to this migration from all parts of the Nation of veterans desirous of receiving the benefits of these unusually favorable conditions, the veteran population of Arizona is probably greater proportionally than that of any other State, and is steadily increasing.

In addition to the maintenance of several veterans' hospitals in the State there are a number of military and naval installations.

For the reasons given it is obvious that the need for national cemeteries in Arizona is both real and urgent.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress enact Senate bill 2621.

Passed the house March 21, 1952 by unanimous vote.

Filed in the office of the secretary of state March 21, 1952.

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